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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1623
INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2434
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0114
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 1852
RUEHJM/AMEMBASSY MAJURO 0907
RUEHKN/AMEMBASSY KOLONIA 0479
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY KOROR 0358
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0307
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0311
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0292
RUEHAP/AMEMBASSY APIA 0405
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0466
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 0105
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0569
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 SUVA 000023

SIPDIS

FOR: DOL/ILAB FOR LEYLA STROTKAMP, RACHEL RIGBY AND TINA MCCARTER,
STATE DRL/ILCSR FOR SARAH MORGAN AND G/TIP FOR LUIS CDEBACA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ELAB](#) [EIND](#) [ETRD](#) [KTIP](#) [PHUM](#) [SOCI](#) [USAID](#) [FJ](#)

SUBJECT: FIJI: DOL CHILD LABOR REPORT INFORMATION

* Missing Section 001 *

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number is insufficient to effectively address child labor issues. Labor inspectors are stationed in the larger towns, and have difficulty getting out to the smaller rural communities and outer islands.

- 6. No information was available on the number of inspections.
- 7. No children were removed or officially assisted as the result of inspections. Labor officers report unofficially assisting children, by raising awareness of the law, by providing warnings to employers who are not fully compliant, and by encouraging their parents to apply to social welfare for help.
- 8. No cases were opened.
- 9. No cases were resolved.
- 10. No violations were found or convictions reached.
- 11. No cases were opened or resolved.
- 12. No violations were found.
- 13. There is an inadequate effort to combat child labor.

Considerable evidence shows that child labor does happen in Fiji, so a complete lack of reported cases demonstrates a failure to systematically address the problem and track results.

- 14. In September 2009, the Ministry of Labour offered a short training for labor inspectors on this issue, the first the government has conducted. The feedback from the labor officers contributed to Ministry of Labour plans to more effectively address this issue.

15. Tasking 2D): Institutional Mechanisms for Effective Enforcement

- 2D, Section I: Child Trafficking

--1. Enforcement of laws on child trafficking is divided between the police, the Ministry of Immigration, and the Department of Public Prosecution. No officials were dedicated to enforcement in 12009. The police formed a task force to develop strategies to address trafficking in persons, including child trafficking. All police officers, labor inspectors, and immigration officials

theoretically had responsibility to address child trafficking, however the pervasive lack of awareness hampered efforts.

- 2. Total funding information is not available. No funding was allocated specifically for these tasks.
- 3. There was no hotline or dedicated mechanism to receive complaints.
- 4. No investigations were opened. This is inadequate, based on the evidence, and stems from the pervasive lack of awareness. Most officials were only aware of the issue of international trafficking, and cross-border trafficking of children in Fiji is extremely rare. Currently, the government is working to address this problem with new laws, and substantive awareness-raising and training efforts.
- 5. No children were rescued.
- 6. No arrests were made.
- 7. No cases were closed or resolved.
- 8. No convictions happened.
- 9. This is not applicable. See previous responses.
- 10. Not applicable.
- 11. No cases were resolved.
- 12. The government conducted three conferences addressing this issue. The police and DPP have formed task forces, and are developing cooperative efforts with the NGO community. New laws have been promulgated, to better allow for trafficking offenses to be prosecuted.
- 13. There were no reports of child soldiers in 2009.

16. Tasking 2D, Section II: CSEC

- 1. Enforcement of laws on CSEC is the responsibility of the police. No officials were dedicated to enforcement of CSEC in 2009. The police formed a task force to develop strategies to address trafficking in persons, including child sex trafficking. There were four members of the unit responsible for sexual crimes against children.
- 2. Total funding information is not available. No funding was allocated specifically for these tasks.
- 3. There was no hotline or dedicated mechanism to receive complaints.
- 4. Two cases suspected of involving trafficking and CSEC are

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being prosecuted under the defilement statute. Prior to the implementation of the Crimes Decree in February 2010, it was difficult to apply criminal charges for CSEC, and prosecutions were rare, leading to inadequate efforts to address this problem.

- 5. No child rescues were reported.
- 6. No arrests were made.
- 7. No cases were closed or resolved.
- 8. No convictions happened.
- 9. This is not applicable. See previous responses.
- 10. Not applicable.
- 11. No cases were resolved.
- 12. The government conducted three conferences addressing this issue. The police and DPP have formed task forces, and are developing cooperative efforts with the NGO community. The government is cooperating with the ILO on the TACKLE project, which addresses CSEC and other forms of exploitive child labor. New laws have been promulgated, to better allow for trafficking offenses to be prosecuted.
- 13. There were no reports of child soldiers in 2009.

17. Tasking 2D, Section III: Use of Children in Illicit Activities

- 1. Enforcement of laws on the use of children in illicit activities is the responsibility of the police. No officials were dedicated to enforcement of these laws in 2009.
- 2. Total funding information is not available. No funding was allocated specifically for these tasks.
- 3. There was no hotline or dedicated mechanism to receive complaints.
- 4. No investigations were opened. This is inadequate.
- 5. No children were rescued.
- 6. No arrests were made.
- 7. No cases were closed or resolved.
- 8. No convictions happened.
- 9. This is not applicable. See previous responses.
- 10. Not applicable.
- 11. No cases were resolved.

- 12. No steps have been taken to address these issues.
- 13. There were no reports of child soldiers in 2009.

18. Tasking 2E): Government policies on child labor

- 1. The government has not had a specific policy or plan to address exploitive child labor. A coordinated plan is being developed by the Ministry of Labour for 2010.
- 2. This issue was included in the Employment Relations Promulgation.
- 3. No plan exists to be funded.
- 4. No plan exists to be supported. The government is working to develop a plan.
- 5. The government cooperated with the ILO on the TACKLE project to research the problem of child labor and create a plan to address it. The study has not yet been released, and the Ministry of Labour is in the process of developing a national plan, with the goal of beginning to take action in March 2010.
- 6. The government worked on the TACKLE project with the ILO to address child labor. Results are not yet available.
- 7. No agreements or conventions were signed in 2009

19. Tasking 2F): Social Programs to eliminate or prevent child labor

- 1. No programs were implemented specifically to address this issue.
- 2. Efforts to address poverty included, but did not specifically address child labor. Labor inspectors referred families to poverty alleviation efforts of the Ministry of Social Welfare.
- 3. No programs exist.
- 4. No programs exist.
- 5. The government implemented a plan to help children in need get free bus fare to improve school attendance, and general anti-poverty efforts. No formal efforts were made to address child labor.
- 6. The government did not sign any agreements in 2009. The laws of Fiji are consistent with all ILO accords signed, however enforcement remains inadequate.

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10. Tasking 2G): Continual Progress

Despite poor performance, the government made progress in combating exploitive child labor in 2009. Efforts to address child labor in Fiji are starting from a very low level of awareness and capacity. The government has begun work to develop the official framework to implement existing child labor laws, which should lead to meaningful improvements. While there were no prosecutions, work has begun on training, and laying the implementing framework to perform more effectively in 2010.

MCGANN